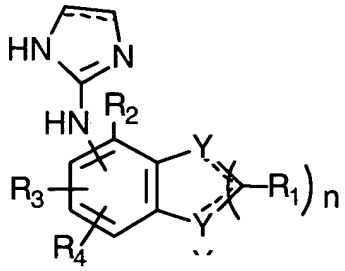
STATUS OF CLAIMS

1-7) Cancelled.

14-20) Cancelled

21) (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~preventing~~ degeneration of the optic nerve and ~~providing protection of~~ the retinal ganglion cells of a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a prostaglandin and a therapeutically effective amount of an alpha adrenergic agent of formula (I)



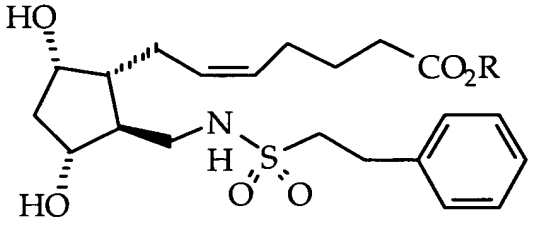
formula (I)

wherein each Y is independently selected from the group consisting of N, N-CH3, O, S and C-R_1; R_1 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or oxo; R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl and lower alkenyl; n is an integer from 1 to 3; and a broken line beside a solid line indicates either a single or a double bond, provided that two double bonds are not on the same carbon in the case when n=1, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters as appropriate.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the prostaglandin is selected from the group consisting of PGF2α, PGE2, PGE1, prostacyclin, 15(S)-methyl-PGF2α, 16,16-dimethyl-PGF2α, 15(S)-methyl-PGE2a, 16,16-dimethyl-PGE2, 17,18,19,20-tetranor-16-phenoxy-PGE2, 17,18, 19,20-tetranor-16-phenoxy-PGF2α, 18,19,20-trinor-17-phenyl-PGE2, 18,19,20-trinor-17-phenyl-PGF2α, the free acid and lower alkyl esters of PGF2α, wherein the omega chain has been replaced with phenylethylsulfonamidomethyl- , trimoprostil, RS-84-135, rioprostil, S-1033 (15-deshydroxy PGF2α, sodium salt), S-747260, nocloprost, CS-412, YPG-209, K-10134, cloprostenol, fluprostenol, luporstiol, etiproston, tiaprost, SQ 27986, ZK 138519, 13,14-dihydro-ZK 138519, ZK 118182, 13,14-dihydro-ZK 118182, ZK 110841, 13,14-dihydro-ZK 110841, PhXA41 (latanoprost), RO-221327, HR-466, HR-601, ONO-

1206, UFO-21, 11-deoxy-PGE2, 11-deoxy-PGF2α, 11-deoxy-16,16-dimethyl-PGE2, 11-deoxy-15(S)-methyl-PGE2, 11-deoxy-15(S)-methyl-PGF2α, misoprostol, enisoprost, MDL-646, CL-115,574, CL-115,347, TR-4161, TR-4752, TR-4367, CP-27987, sulprostone, gemeprost, alfaprostol, delprostenate, prostalene, fenprostalene, CL-116,069, ONO-995 and RO-229648, and their pharmaceutically acceptable esters and salts, as appropriate.

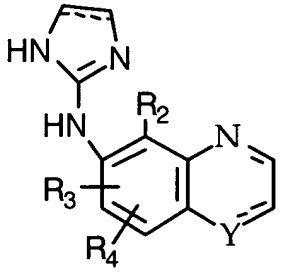
23) (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the prostaglandin is selected from the group consisting of PGF2α-11-pivalyl ester, the 1-amido-15-methyl ether of PGF2α, 1-ethylamido-18,19,20-trinor-17-phenyl-PGF2α, PGF2α-1-ethyl ester, PGF2α1-isopropyl ester, the acid and isopropyl ester derivatives of PGF2α wherein the omega chain has been replaced with phenylethylsulfonamidomethyl-, as represented by the structure below:



R=H, i-propyl,

RO-229648, SQ 27986, ZK 138519, 13,14-dihydro-ZK 138519, ZK 110841, 13,14-dihydro-ZK 110841, PhXA41, and 18,19,20-trinor-17-phenyl-PGF2α-1-methyl ester.

24) (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the alpha adrenergic agent is selected from the group consisting of formula (II) wherein Y is N or O, R2 is bromine or methyl and all other variables are defined as in claim 14



formula (II)

25) (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the alpha adrenergic agent is brimonidine (5-bromo-N-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-6-quinoxalinamine).

26) Cancelled

27) (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ method of claim 21 wherein the prostaglandin is the 11-pivalyl ester of PGF2α and the alpha adrenergic agent is brimonidine.